

**WAC 357-31-130 When may an employee use accrued sick leave?** The employer may require medical verification or certification of the reason for sick leave use in accordance with the employer's leave policy and in compliance with chapter 296-128 WAC.

(1) Employers **must** allow the use of accrued sick leave under the following conditions:

(a) An employee's mental or physical illness, disability, injury or health condition that has incapacitated the employee from performing required duties; to accommodate the employee's need for medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; or an employee's need for preventive medical care.

(b) By reason of exposure of the employee to a contagious disease when the employee's presence at work would jeopardize the health of others.

(c) When the employee's place of business has been closed by order of a public official for any health-related reason, or when an employee's child's school or place of care has been closed for such reason.

(d) To allow an employee to provide care for a family member with a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; care of a family member who needs medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition; or care for a family member who needs preventive medical care.

(e) For family care emergencies per WAC 357-31-290, 357-31-295, 357-31-300 and 357-31-305.

(f) When an employee is required to be absent from work to care for members of the employee's household or relatives of the employee or relatives of the employee's spouse/registered domestic partner who experience an illness or injury, not including situations covered by subsection (1)(d) of this section.

(i) The employer must approve up to five days of accumulated sick leave each occurrence. Employers may approve more than five days.

(ii) For purposes of this subsection, "relatives" is limited to spouse, registered domestic partner, child, grandchild, grandparent or parent.

(g) When requested as a supplemental benefit while receiving a partial wage replacement for paid family and/or medical leave under Title 50A RCW as provided in WAC 357-31-248. Leave taken under this subsection may be subject to verification that the employee has been approved to receive benefits for paid family and/or medical leave under Title 50A RCW.

(h) If the employee or the employee's family member, as defined in chapter 357-01 WAC, is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking as defined in RCW 49.76.020. An employer may require the request for leave under this section be supported by verification in accordance with WAC 357-31-730.

(i) In accordance with WAC 357-31-373, for an employee to be with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, National Guard, or reserves after the military spouse or registered domestic partner has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, before deployment, or when the

military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment.

(j) When an employee requests to use sick leave for the purpose of parental leave to bond with a newborn, adoptive or foster child for a period up to eighteen weeks. Sick leave for this purpose must be taken during the first year following the child's birth or placement.

(2) Employers **may** allow the use of accrued sick leave under the following conditions:

(a) For condolence or bereavement;

(b) When an employee is unable to report to work due to inclement weather in accordance with the employer's policy on inclement weather as described in WAC 357-31-255; ~~((or))~~

(c) To bond with a newborn, adoptive or foster child for a period beyond eighteen weeks as allowed in subsection (1)(i) of this section. Sick leave for this purpose must be taken during the first year following the child's birth or placement. The total amount of sick leave allowed to be used, beyond subsection (1)(i) of this section must be addressed in the employer's leave policy in accordance with WAC 357-31-100; or

(d) When a child is a family member of an employee or member of an employee's household and the child's school or place of care has been closed while proclamation 20-05, issued February 29, 2020, by the governor and declaring an emergency in the state of Washington, or any amendment thereto, is in effect.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-18-028, filed 8/28/17, effective 10/2/17)

**WAC 357-31-215 When may vacation leave be accumulated above the maximum two hundred forty hours?** There are two circumstances in which vacation leave may be accumulated above the maximum of two hundred forty hours.

(1) If an employee's request for vacation leave is denied by the employer, and the employee is close to the maximum vacation leave (two hundred forty hours), the employer must grant an extension for each month that the employer defers the employee's request for vacation leave. The employer must maintain a statement of necessity justifying the extension.

(2) As an alternative to subsection (1) of this section, employees may also accumulate vacation leave in excess of two hundred forty hours as follows:

(a) An employee may accumulate the vacation leave hours between the time the two hundred forty hours is accrued and his/her next anniversary date of state employment.

(b) Leave accumulated above two hundred forty hours must be used by the next anniversary date and in accordance with the employer's leave policy. If such leave is not used before the employee's anniversary date, the excess leave is automatically lost and considered to have never existed.

(c) A statement of necessity, as described in subsection (1) of this section, can only defer leave that the employee has not accrued as of the date of the statement of necessity. Any accrued leave in excess of two hundred forty hours as of the date of the statement of ne-

cessity cannot be deferred regardless of circumstances except in accordance with subsection (3) of this section. For example:

On June 15th, an employee is assigned to work on a special project. It is expected that the assignment will last six months. Due to an ambitious timeline and strict deadlines, the employee will not be able to take any vacation leave during that time.

- On June 15th, the employee's vacation leave balance is two hundred sixty hours.

- The employee accrues ten hours monthly.

- The employee's anniversary date is October 16th.

Because the employee will not be able to use leave from June 15th through December 15th the employee files a statement of necessity asking to defer the leave accrued during this time. This deferred leave will not be lost as long as the employee uses the deferred hours by their next anniversary date (October 16th of the following year).

The twenty hours of excess vacation leave the employee had on June 15th are not covered by the statement of necessity.

(3) Beginning February 29, 2020, a statement of necessity, as described in subsection (1) of this section, may be used to preserve leave acquired over two hundred forty hours between February 29, 2020, and the filing of the statement of necessity. This is effective until the expiration of proclamation 20-43, issued February 29, 2020, by the governor and declaring an emergency in the state of Washington, or any amendment thereto, whichever is later.